

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 09608 202226Z

72

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PLENARY SESSION, NOV 20/ 1973

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PLENARY SESSION, NOV 20, CONSISTED OF STATE-
MENTS BY EAST GERMAN, UK, AND SOVIET REPS. EAST GERMAN STATEMENT
(TEXT SEPTTEL) IN RATHER POLEMICAL TONE, BUT ADDRESSED WESTERN
THEME STATEMENTS OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS AS COMPONENTS OF PROPOSALS.
GDR REP TOOK LINE THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE DELAYING
PROGRESS BY NOT ADDRESSING EASTERN PROPOSAL AND ARE
DELIBERATELY ADDRESSING ONLY SELECTED ASPECTS OF THE MILITARY
SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE, THUS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ADVAN-
TAGES WHICH WOULD DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF THE PACT STATES.
GDR REP SAID THAT WESTERN RELUCTANCE TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 09608 202226Z

REDUCTION OF AIR FORCES OR NUCLEAR WEAPONS JUSTIFIED CONCLUSION

THAT WEST WISHES TO LEAVE ITS FORCES EQUIPPED FOR "DANGEROUS MILITARY ADVENTURES". UK STATEMENT ON DATA FOLLOWED VIENNA 9565 (NOTAL). SOVIET REP KHLESTOV THEREUPON REQUESTED THE FLOOR AND OBJECTED TO WESTERN STATEMENTS WHICH, DISTORTED THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES BY ASCRIBING TO IT AIMS OTHER THAN DEFENSE. KHLESTOV ASSERTED THAT "SUCH POLEMICS" WOULD LEAD NOWHERE, AND SUGGESTED THAT ALL DELEGATIONS STICK TO THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF WORKING OUT CONCRETE MEASURES OF REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR OESER DELIVERED FIRST STATEMENT (TEXT SEPTTEL). STATEMENT BEGAN WITH AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PACT PROPOSAL OF NOV 8 WHICH WAS NOTEWORTHY FOR A REMARK THAT THIS PROPOSAL TREATED ASSOCIATED MEASURES AS WELL AS REDUCTIONS AND FULLY COMPLIED WITH THE JUNE 28 COMMUNIQUE. GDR REP THEN TURNED TO WESTERN STATEMENTS IN EARLIER PLENARY SESSIONS, AND OBSERVED THAT WESTERN STATEMENTS, UNLIKE THE PACT PROPOSAL, HAD NOT EVEN SAID HOW LARGE REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE. HE WENT ON TO OBJECT THAT WESTERN STATEMENTS EXCLUDED AIR FORCES AND FORCES POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AN EXCLUSION WHICH WAS "CONTRARY" TO JUNE 28 COMMUNIQUE. THESE FORCES EVOKED THE GREATEST CONCERN TO THE PEOPLES OF THE EAST. SINCE THE WEST HAD ATTRIBUTED OFFENSIVE AIMS TO ONE SIDE, HE WOULD POINT OUT THAT IN MAKING PROPOSALS WHICH DID NOT TAKE AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO ACCOUNT THE WEST ALLOWED THE OBJECTIVE CONCLUSION THAT IT WANTED TO LEAVE ITS FORCES EQUIPPED TO CARRY OUT DANGEROUS MILITARY ADVENTURES USING SUCH FORCES. GDR REP AMPLIFIED THIS POINT BY NOTING THAT IN MODERN WARFARE GROUND AND AIR FORCES WORK TOGETHER. HE ALSO CITED AS A POINT IN FAVOR OF THE PACT PROPOSAL THAT IT WOULD PREVENT AIR FORCES AND UNITS EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM ASSUMING GREATER "WEIGHT" BY BEING UNTOUCHED OR EVEN INCREASED WHILE GROUND FORCES WERE REDUCED, IMPLYING THIS WAS DESIRE OF WEST. GDR REP ATTACKED LIMITATION OF REDUCTIONS TO US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE FIRST STAGE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF EASTERN STATES, SINCE IT WOULD LEAVE IMPORTANT FORCES UNTOUCHED. UK AND FRG, HE SAID, MUST ALSO REDUCE IN PROPORTION. GDR REP ALSO CHALLENGED WESTERN INTERPRETATION OF SENTENCE IN JUNE 28 COMMUNIQUE CONCERNING "A MORE STABLE RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 09608 202226Z

LATIONSHIP" AS MEANING THAT PRESENT RELATIONSHIP LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED. ON THE CONTRARY, THIS SENTENCE MEANT SIMPLY THAT PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY ADDING MILITARY DETENTE TO THE POLITICAL DETENTE WHICH RESULTED FROM RECOGNITION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. FINALLY, GDR REP ATTACKED WESTERN CONCEPT OF GEOGRAPHICAL DISPARITIES, ALLEGING THAT AGREEMENT IN THE JUNE 28 COMMUNIQUE ON A REDUCTION AREA MEANT THAT GOVERNMENTS BELIEVED THAT RE-

DUCTIONS IN THAT AREA WOULD NOT BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THEIR SECURITY AND THAT THERE WERE MANY GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES IN FAVOR OF WEST WITHIN THE AREA.

3. UK REP (ROSE) THEN DELIVERED HIS STATEMENT ON DATA. TEXT DIFFERED SLIGHTLY (IN PARAS. 7 AND 9) FROM VIENNA 9565 (NOTAL) AND FULL TEXT IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

4. EARLY IN THE READING OF THE UK STATEMENT, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV TURNED AROUND AND APPEARED TO ASK A QUESTION OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, WHO NODDED AFFIRMATIVELY. AT THE END OF UK STATEMENT, SOVIET REP REQUESTED THE FLOOR, AND READ A STATEMENT FROM A PREPARED TYPED TEXT. KHLESTOV BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO SPEAK BUT HAD BEEN OBLIGED BY THE ROSE STATEMENT TO TAKE THE FLOOR. HE ACCUSED THE WESTERN COUNTRIES OF ATTEMPTING TO ASCRIBE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES "AIMS OTHER THAN THE WISH TO DEFEND THEMSELVES," AND REJECTED ANY SUCH ALLEGATIONS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SOVIETS HAD COME TO NEGOTIATE CONCRETE MEASURES OF REDUCTIONS, AND URGED ALL PARTICIPANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS TASK. AFTER CONCLUSIONS OF SESSIONS, KHLESTOV MADE POINT OF SHAKING HANDS WITH UK REP. HUMES

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